

FROM: CAPTAIN J.P. CAMERON, P.D.
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Joseph P. Cameron

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U.S.A.

Erms but it is through the use of keeping in the background, and a light coat
were, by a subdued and familiar style of architecture the home of the movement,
that the great work of the world has had some of its impetus.
- Edith
KMF, III 00 (Oct. 1907) p. 151

Miffett ^① - return from furlough ^{Summer} Oct 1907
^② - indigenous architecture in PY.

① S. A. Miffett and wife have returned from a year's furlough in America. "Dr. Miffett blazed out the pathway of the Christian church in that great north country in the pioneer days, and his ax is not dull yet."

② At Presb. Compound - "peculiar and grotesque beauty, all its own" } - Korea Mission Field, III. 10 (Oct. 1907) p. 149.
Korean style!

a PY, devastated by Sun-joo war - is third in population Seoul, Snydo, PY. - p. 151
"The Presbyterian brethren of the northern states have adopted the style of Korean architecture in large church buildings and (missionary) residences not as a matter of convenience, for we are content for that point, or for durability, for each successive rainy season has left disproof of that, but for 'conscience sake' have they planned them. They believe that the Korean church should have these things as an example before them. However one may differ in personal opinions about such a method of construction, one cannot but respect them for conscience sake." And who

Dear Sam.

1907 → My first idea of going to Korea as a missionary was the result of hearing your father at a Missionary Convention in Omaha, Neb., when I was a student in the seminary there. He had the best message of any of the speakers. I've always been glad I got to that country, largely because it was in 1899 that I first saw my wife, who had come out to visit her sister, and arrived just 3 weeks after I did.

I couldn't help wondering why one as good as she was should be such a sufferer. Then I thought the best person who ever lived was also the greatest sufferer there ever was. Some who suffer as much as she did, get very cross and difficult to endure. She was greatly admired both in the Marine Hospital in San Francisco ~~and~~ 1945 and in the Huntington Hospital in Paradise in 1966. The Lord has been very gracious to us these last 21 years. I'm sure that more than the immediate family are better Christians for having known her. Now we wonder what Samuel Moffett Cothers will become.

Thank you for your message.

John Y. Cothers

W. N. Blair

TIDINGS FROM AFAR

"In Thee Shalt All the Nations of the Earth be Blessed."

VOL. VI.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1907.

[Grove City, Pa.]

No. 3.

THE WORK IN KOREA.

Busy Times.—Sickness of Friends.—The Work Organized.—Mrs. Blair Tells of a Native Christian's Sad Trials.

PYENG YANG, KOREA, Oct. 25, '07.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I have had the hardest time to get this letter written. It should have been written two weeks ago and I am nearly certain that the TIDINGS will be delayed or go to press without it, and this in spite of all my good resolutions. But you will pardon me if it is so, because I just couldn't help it this time. You see September was taken up with General Council and Annual Meeting here. We had our house full of company. Uncle John was with us

and Father and Mother Blair. Herbert and the new sister were with us too and their mother Zillett and her sister, Miss Brokenshire. These, with Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Miller, constituted our share of the company. I was on the entertainment committee and cared for the transportation of all guests and their baggage. The laundry was under my supervision and the butcher shop, too. We had meetings nearly all day and committee meetings at night; and there was father in the end room too sick to attend the meetings and I could scarcely steal a minute to spend at his side.

I had better stop right here and tell you about father's illness. He and mother went to Syen Chun to visit with Herbert the last week in August and father was taken sick with malaria a few days after their arrival and spent nearly two months in bed. He had several relapses and at one time we feared for his



The first ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Korea. They were ordained at the first meeting of the Korea Presbytery in September, 1907.

recovery, but God was good to us and the fever at length surrendered to Dr. Whiting's excellent care.

Father and mother, with Uncle John, returned to America the last week in October. I went with them as far as Kobe, Japan, making the trip from Nagasaki to Kobe on the "Asia" with them. It was hard to see our dear ones go from us again and especially in this way—father so changed from the great strong man who came to us four months ago. The last farewell on the steamer was about the hardest I have ever known. They are out there somewhere on the vast Pacific. May God bless them and bring them safely home and make a strong man of our dear father again.

The event of greatest interest to us during the meetings was the ordination of the first seven graduates of our Theological Seminary and the organization of the independent Korean Presbyterian church. The missionaries are members of this church but it is no longer under the care of the home church. The American Presbyterian Church South, the Canadian Presbyterian Church, the Australian Presbyterian Church, and our own church all unite to form the first Korean Presbyterian Church. The new church starts off with seven ministers, 53 elders, 131 unordained preachers, 984 churches, 17,890 baptized and 21,482 catechumenate members. Our total adherentage is 69,000. There are 402 Presbyterian schools with 8,611 pupils. The offerings of the church last year amounted to \$47,118. The average Korean does not make 20 cents a day, so that for them to give this amount is ten times as hard as for people who average two dollars a day. The new Korean church at its first meeting voted to begin direct Foreign Mission work and set aside the brightest of the seven men, Mr. Ne Ke-Pung, as a missionary to be sent to the island of Quelpart. I have the honor of being a member of the new Board of Foreign Missions and also of being on its executive committee. We expect to send two unordained men with Mr. Ne Ke-Pung.

My appointment this year is the same as last, with the addition of a six weeks' trip to far-off Kangkei with Brother Herbert, and charge of building operations in Pyeng Yang. We are putting up a large building for Training Classes and Girls' School work. Mr. Lee has usually built for us but the station decided to give him a rest this time and break me in, so I am right in the midst of a beautiful job of laying the foundation with Korean workmen. We have graded the site and are laying the stone for the piers in deep holes nearly four feet square. None of you have ever seen such a building as this will be, a rich combination of Korean and modern architecture. The great beams for the tile roof will rest on long posts set upon six-foot stone piers, and above the piers the wall will be protected for six feet more by a facing of brick. The last ten feet will be ordinary Korean clay walls, very smooth and made durable for warmth. As this is my first job as a builder I get considerably bothered now and then and will make lots of mistakes, but it's very interesting work and a great change for me.

Sincerely,
W. N. BLAIR.

LETTER FROM MRS. BLAIR.

DEAR FRIENDS:—If you should go to preaching service some day at our church in the north of the city, you would always see on the platform three men who are the official leaders of the church. Mr. Ni always reminds me of the rich young man who came to Jesus to find the way of life, the one Je-sus loved. But He would have been glad in this case because this rich young man has already proved his willingness to

sell all that he has and follow Him. Mr. Kang, the younger, is also a young man, not rich, but faithful and loyal and good. The third is also a Mr. Kang, an uncle of the younger man, and it is of him I want particularly to tell you.

He lived in a big tiled house over in the city until a short time ago, a house with ever so many small rooms strung around four sides of a court, for he too was rich, not an aristocrat, but a successful business man. I don't know just how many years ago he believed, but from the first he was an earnest, enthusiastic christian, and one time I know he received a hard beating from the magistrate because he refused to pay a tax levied for the purpose of building a heathen temple. His family all believed too and he was a much-blessed man in that regard from a Korean standpoint, for he had four sons and two daughters. He became a leader at last in the large central church and when our little north church was divided from it he became a leader there and afterwards the native pastor. Happy, strong in faith, enthusiastic and a splendid pastor, there seemed nothing of which he might not be capable in the work.

And just here God saw fit to lay His hand upon him, surely in mercy, though it has been hard for us who have loved him as a friend to see the mercy thro' the suffering he has endured. Our church congregation is not a rich one and when Mr. Kang was chosen as a helper or pastor it was understood we could not pay him a large salary. He knew this, of course, but it is hard to change the way of living in a large family in a day, and very gradually he found his business, which was in the hands of his eldest son, was bringing in very little and soon debt hung heavy over his head, a serious thing in Korea, where interest is often 35 per cent. This was hard for him but he endured it bravely. Later he lost one of his younger sons but this too seemed not to touch his faith and courage. Just before this had occurred the marriage of his second son, a fine, bright boy full of promise, a student at the academy. He was their Benjamin, their joy and pride. I remember so well the fine feast with all the strange dainties which are always such a trial to me and the shy little bride in her lovely colored silk skirts and dainty satin jacket. After this, financial trouble became worse and worse and we could see that some of Mr. Kang's cheerfulness was forced at times, but he was still hopeful that all would be right.

But one day came the news that this second son, their best loved, was too ill for hope of recovery, and after days of suffering God took him. It was just after our wonderful revival meetings last winter and then the boy had a great blessing, so that his going was full of glory, but to Mr. Kang it was a crushing blow. Even then it brought its blessing, for the mother, whose faith for some time had been wavering, was wonderfully strengthened by the trial, and I have never seen such peace under such circumstances. She received us at the funeral with a smiling face and she went about constantly comforting and quieting the other members of the family.

One incident I must mention as a comment on the heathen customs. The young wife who was left a widow was most afflicted. Her bereavement meant not merely being left alone, but that she must spend her life as a recluse and lack always the only comfort and glory of a Korean woman—sons to reverence and care for her. So that it is not much wonder that when the American doctor had done his all and her husband did not improve she tried the old heathen remedy and bit her own thumb until the blood came, so that she might make him partake of her own life by

giving him the blood as medicine.

I think Mr. Kang never fully recovered from this blow, at least not until lately. And then there arose a party in the church which turned against him—men who were jealous of his position and whose characters may be judged by the fact that their attacks took the form of anonymous letters scattered among the church members, hinting at various scandals. Altogether it was too much for one man to bear and although he never gave up his belief, Mr. Kang became melancholy and somewhat discouraged, and both because of this and because it was necessary that he should meet his financial obligations, he resigned his position in the church.

One would think that this was enough, but another trial awaited him, perhaps the hardest of all. He sold his large house in the city and bought a smaller one, expecting to use the balance of the money on his debts. He had the remaining money, about \$100, in his house. It may not sound like much to you, but it is a small fortune to a Korean. One morning the family awoke to find the oldest son gone, and further search revealed the fact that the money was gone too. I cannot tell you the grief of the father and mother. For days there was no word but one day the son came back, of course without the money. Like the prodigal, he had spent it in riotous living and even then he was still hard and unrepentant.

Is not this a story to rival that of Job? But there is, I hope, a happy ending, for in the month since this last trial Mr. Kang has seemed to receive grace to endure them and I believe that, like Job, his faith will be triumphant. His natural business instinct is helping him too, and he will not be long in attaining his former success. Pray for him that he may be given back to the church strengthened and purified by the fire through which he has passed.

Sincerely, EDITH BLAIR.

A NEW HOME.

New House and Boy's Quarters Completed—Many Converts Baptized—A Famine Threatened.

ETAH, OCTOBER 2, 1907.

Dear Friends:—

These have been pretty busy days. I was out in the district five days and baptized about 150 people, then came in and helped conduct a three days convention, at the same time overseeing the workmen on the house and packing up to move. Yesterday we moved into our new house and today the boys are moving. They seem very happy about it and I don't wonder, for their old quarters were not very inviting. Their new quarters are good enough in looks to inspire a desire to live up to their surroundings. We have not yet completed all our buildings. We need about \$300 more to complete what we ought to have, then I think we will have a compound to be proud of. The house I consider to be the best designed in the mission, but I expect I am prejudiced in the matter. A missionary learns to do many things. Last March I knew next to nothing about building—now I think I know a few things in that line, was architect, contractor and all. I hope to give you a picture of it soon.

But I have better things to tell about than our happiness over being again alone in a home of our own, after nearly three years of crowding. Nearly six

years ago Mr. McGaw was asked to go out to a district about twenty miles across country, and open work among a lot of sweepers. He was not able to go then and last spring I sent a man out. He has been busy there with a teacher or two and reported about 500 people ready. I went out last week—it was a very unfavorable season as the people are very busy. I baptized 150 converts, all of whom were very well prepared. Owing to our meetings to follow in Etah I could not see all. We will spend much time out there during camping season and see the rest. My work now extends up to the Ganges River. What pleased me perhaps most was to see Sunday being observed. In our older communities emphasis has not been put on Sunday observance, a mistake I believe. Saturday night the sound of the grinding was heard long into the night so there would be no need to grind on Sunday.

In one village I baptized an old "medicine man" or Exorcist. He used to be very hostile but he was very happy to be baptized. During our meetings another such Bhagat was baptized. These men exercise a great deal of influence over the people, and often do mischief by persuading the people that they have an evil spirit. One village was occupied entirely by these people so that now we can say we have a Christian village. Its name before was simply village and we suggested to them that they call it Isa Nagla—Jesus' village. In this community are two old brothers who are very enthusiastic Christians. They said they were going to go and get a hundred more Christians.

Last June I had a little gathering of villagers but after great urging sixteen came, though it was not a very busy season. This time with less urging seventy came at a time when it was very hard for them to leave. We provided food for which purpose a collection was taken up in the district. Of course I had to be the main contributor. But the men didn't come for the food for wages are very high now and those who are farmers have lots of work, for a famine is really about in sight. The rains only lasted a month and this season's sowing won't average a fifth of a crop. One of our subjects in the meetings was Sabbath observance. It was interesting to hear some give their testimony. They feel that God has blessed them in return, and I know I saw nowhere such good looking crops as around Isa Nagla. I wonder how many Americans are willing to admit that God blesses them who obey Him.

The pervading topic of our convention was "Saved to Serve." Christ says to the lost "Come." To the saved "Go." They listen gladly to the presentation of the missionary call and I feel sure there will be some response. Some heathen were present from the village when Mr. McGaw was stabbed last year. We had representatives from every section of our district and from three surrounding districts as well. I pointed this out to them and urged them to realize that they constituted a Christian community and that there was no need for them to continue to associate with the members of their old caste and I think the gathering together will do this. They will realize that when they have a boy to get a wife for they can find one among the Christians. We want to work up a mela or fair by next spring, something like what the Hindus have only on Christian lines; if only in the meantime a famine doesn't come. It is time to sow wheat but what are you to do when there is no moisture in the ground. The outlook is not very encouraging.

J. H. LAWRENCE.

TIDINGS FROM AFAR

Aims not to entertain or interest its readers simply. Its ultimate aim is to enlist the followers of the King in earnest, intelligent and definite prayer that His Kingdom may come. It will strive to keep its readers in touch with the work in a part of Korea and India. In return will you not pray daily for that work?

Contributors.

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FROM MRS. LAWRENCE.

DEAR FRIENDS:—The one great thing that makes us feel most grateful to our home friends is our new house and suitable buildings for our boys. After several years of crowding and living with friends, and good ones, too, it is nice to be alone. You may laugh, but to be able to have room enough to put your feet under the table and not having to sit sidewise at meals is a great comfort. It all seems so restful and so quiet. Painting, whitewashing and putting in the doors and windows is still going on, but hope to be all finished in a few weeks. Should you think it queer to see a painter undertake to paint the wood-work of a house and have no brush? Well, ours has and I suppose the custom of the country is to do as he is doing, rubbing it on with a little rag. I, too, have been employing very much of my spare time painting and varnishing some of our queer-looking furniture. We have just bought enough matting at 3½ cents a yard to cover one room.

We are hoping in 1910 to have some of our friends visit us while in attendance at the World's C. E. Convention at Agra. It is only about 60 miles from here. Do hope if any of our friends who read TIDINGS talk of going to this convention they will stop and see us. It will be during the most lovely time of year and I am sure any one would feel repaid for coming.

I have been home from the hills nearly a month. We are most thankful we have a cool, healthy place to go to and have our children protected from the awful heat of the plains. But don't think it is a pleasure to be there all summer while our husbands are down in the boiling heat, with most undesirable food, and many of them quite alone. For weeks this summer Mr. Lawrence never spoke an English word. I consider it by far the hardest trial I have to bear.

Since coming down I have taken charge of the Boys' Primary School. We now have some 40 boys, and more coming every day from the nearby villages. I do most of the Bible teaching. It is wonderful how the little chaps take to learning it, non-Christian as well as Christian, and some of the answers they give

are most original. We are studying Luke. They commit the most of it to memory. They have finished Genesis. Some of our Indian boys are far ahead of American boys in Bible study.

Mr. Lawrence spoke about the Convention, but I must add a word too about it. It was the most interesting convention I was ever at. To see the ignorant villagers so interested and enthusiastic was worth a lot. They listened eagerly to grasp every word, Sunday observance and temperance seemed to impress them most. One old man said the dinner at his son's wedding was not served until twelve o'clock at night. Said first he wouldn't eat because he thought some of them were offering some of the meat to idols and then the guests wouldn't eat because there was no liquor. He said, "but I didn't give in and they finally decided to eat without drink." I was so surprised to learn through their testimonies how strong a hold drink really had out in the villages. I was also impressed with the simple childlike trust they have. Each one was eager to tell of some prayer that had been answered, especially those asked for the sick. In one village they said, "We didn't know how to pray so we just sang and God heard us." If more of us could only trust and believe as some of those poor villagers do.

For the past few nights we have been hearing weird sort of singing with some doleful music. On inquiring they told me there was a sick boy in the village and they were trying to keep away the evil spirits. How happy I am that our Christians have some one higher to look to. The heathen children nearly always wear queer looking charms and strings to keep the evil eye away.

Remember us in prayer this winter while we are camping from village to village.

C. E. L.

CHEERFUL WORDS.

SOLOMON, KANSAS, Nov. 25, '07.

ERNEST B. LAWRENCE, Grove City, Pa.

DEAR SIR:—To say that the friends of TIDINGS FROM AFAR in this community were pleased when we learned the publication of the paper was to be continued does not adequately describe our joy. Some of us almost shed tears at its discontinuance, and I am sure God will reward you for your part.

We have sent in a list of ten or more subscribers every year since the beginning of its existence and I enclose a list of thirteen names for this year. I enclose money order for four dollars and thirty cents, (4.30). The \$1.30 is for the subscription of the thirteen names and the \$3.00 is a donation from our missionary society.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. FRED RAMSEY.

A later letter from Mr. Lawrence states that one of the worst famines for many years is imminent in India and he asks for aid in behalf of his starving people. More particulars will be given in the next issue. As the famine is just commencing, the hardest times for the people over there will come later.

The average family in America throws away or gives to the pigs or chickens enough to support a family in India, Korea or China. An American does not know the meaning of the word privation, as the natives of these countries have to practice it. Let us be thankful that we live in free and prosperous America. —[ED.]